Inmate Exercise and Recreation

1004.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines and procedures ensuring that the Thurston County Sheriff's Office facility will have sufficiently scheduled exercise and recreation periods and sufficient space for these activities, as required by law.

1004.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Exercise - The physical exertion of large muscle groups.

Recreation - Activities that may include table games, watching television or socializing with other individuals.

1004.2 POLICY

It is the policy of this office to provide inmates with access to exercise opportunities and equipment, and to recreation activities in accordance with state laws or requirements. The Chief Deputy of Corrections or the authorized designee shall be responsible for ensuring there is sufficient secure space allocated for physical exercise and recreation, and that a schedule is developed to ensure accessibility for all inmates.

1004.3 ACCESS TO EXERCISE AND RECREATION

Inmates at the TCCF will be afforded the opportunity to participate in recreational activities. Depending on their classification and Inmate Behavior Management (IBM), inmates may have access to a variety of in-house recreational materials, to include but not be limited to, playing board and card games, television, tournaments, word puzzles, art supplies, etc. In some housing areas, these recreational activities will be available throughout the day when inmates are not on lockdown. In other areas, access to them will be more limited.

The goal of the TCCF will be to allow inmates to utilize the outdoor recreation yard within their housing areas as much as possible.

Recreation activities will be logged and maintained in accordance with record retention schedules WAC 44-14-03005

1004.4 ACCESS TO RECREATION

Each inmate should have access to recreational (leisure-time) activities outside the cell at least once a day. The length of time will be determined by the inmate's classification status, security concerns and operational schedules that preclude recreation during a period of time (e.g., meal times, searches, lockdown or court). The staff should ensure that the maximum time possible is provided to the inmates for this purpose.

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Televisions, newspapers, table games and other items may also be made available to enhance recreation time. Consideration will be given to the passive or active recreational needs of older inmates and inmates with disabilities.

1004.4.1 USE OF THE INMATE WELFARE FUND
Monies derived from the Inmate Welfare Fund may be used to purchase and maintain recreational equipment and supplies.

1004.5 SECURITY AND SUPERVISION

The staff supervising the inmates during exercise and recreation time shall document the opportunity to exercise or recreate. The Housing Deputy will report any inmates they notice who are completely inactive to Mental Health and Medical staff. The Housing Deputy will also report any inmates they feel are 'overdoing' exercise to Medical staff, for individual consideration.

Staff shall be responsible for inspecting exercise and recreational equipment to ensure it appears safe for use. Broken equipment or equipment that is in an unsafe condition shall not be used. All equipment shall be accounted for before inmates are returned to their housing unit.

The supervising staff may terminate the exercise or recreation period and escort back to the housing unit any inmate who continues to act in an aggressive or disorderly manner after being ordered to stop by the staff. Whenever an exercise or recreation period is involuntarily terminated, the staff will document the incident and rationale for terminating the exercise period. The Shift Supervisor will determine whether disciplinary action is warranted.

1004.6 EXERCISE SPACE

Sufficient outdoor and covered/enclosed exercise areas, as specified by federal, state and/or local laws or requirements, should be provided to ensure one hour of exercise for each general population inmate per day. Use of outdoor exercise is preferred but weather conditions may require the use of covered/enclosed space. Day room space is not considered exercise space.

1004.7 INABILITY TO MEET REQUIREMENTS

In the event that the inmate population exceeds the ability of the facility to meet the exercise and recreation requirements, the facility should notify the governing body about the deficiency in space for exercise, that it may violate the law and/or the requirements, and request funds to remedy the situation. The facility should document all action taken to try to remedy the situation, including funding requests, population reduction requests and all responses to those requests.

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